

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A mobile communication apparatus mounted on a subject mobile unit for effecting wireless communication between a plurality of mobile units including said subject mobile unit, another mobile unit, and a third mobile unit, the apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving information transmitted from ~~the other~~ said another mobile unit;

transmission means for hopping the received information to the third mobile unit;

surrounding environment detection means for detecting whether or not there are communication obstacles shielding wireless signals in the surrounding environment;

communication state decision means for making decisions as to the communication state quality based on said detection results indicating whether or not there are communication obstacles shielding the wireless signals; and

control means, which transmits received information via the transmission means when the surrounding environment detection means detects no communication obstacles and the surrounding environment detection means decides that the mobile unit is in a satisfactory communication state and then hops the received information from said transmission means to the third mobile unit.

2. (previously presented): The mobile communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the communication state decision means decides that the mobile unit is in an unsatisfactory communication state if the surrounding environment detection means detects the

communication obstacles, the control means transmits the information received by the reception means via the transmission means only if no information identical to the received information is received again within a predetermined period of time after its receipt.

3. (previously presented): The mobile communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the surrounding environment detection means is an imaging means installed in the subject mobile unit.

4. (previously presented): The mobile communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reception means and the transmission means is a wireless communication device.

5. (currently amended): A mobile communication apparatus mounted on a subject mobile unit for effecting wireless communication between a plurality of mobile units including said subject mobile unit, another mobile unit, and a third mobile unit, the apparatus comprising:

- reception means for receiving information transmitted from the other ~~said~~ another mobile unit;
- transmission means for hopping the received information to the third mobile unit;
- surrounding environment detection means for detecting whether or not there are communication obstacles shielding wireless signals in the surrounding environment;
- communication state decision means for making decisions as to the communication state quality based on said detection results indicating whether or not there are the communication obstacles shielding the wireless signals;

and

control means, which transmits, via the transmission means, information received by the reception means if the communication state decision means decides that the mobile unit is in a satisfactory communication state and then hops the received information from said transmission means to the third mobile unit.

6. (currently amended): A mobile communication apparatus mounted on a subject mobile unit for effecting wireless communication between a plurality of mobile units including said subject mobile unit, another mobile unit, and a third mobile unit, the apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving information transmitted from ~~the other~~ said another mobile unit;

transmission means for hopping the received information to the third mobile unit;

surrounding environment detection means for detecting whether or not there are communication obstacles shielding wireless signals in the surrounding environment;

communication state decision means for making decisions as to the communication state quality based on said detection results indicating whether or not there are communication obstacles shielding the wireless signals;

and

control means, which transmits, via the transmission means, the information received by the reception means and then hops the received information from said transmission means to the third mobile unit only if no information identical to that information is received again within a

predetermined period of time after its receipt when the communication state decision means decides that the mobile unit is in an unsatisfactory communication state.